

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 10 are herein amended. No new matter has been added.

Support for newly amended claims 1 and 10 may be found in the as-originally filed specification, for example see Figure 1 of the present application.

Examiner Interview

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the helpful and courteous telephone interview conducted on May 18, 2010. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is discussed herein. During the telephone interview, Applicants' representatives and the Examiner discussed the present application, the cited art and Applicants' proposed claim amendments. The amendments discussed during the interview are presented herein with a Request for Continued Examination.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Racich et al., U.S. Patent Number 4,591,512, in view of Nakane et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,374,972; and claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Racich et al., U.S. Patent Number 4,591,512, in view of Nakane et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,374,972, as applied to claims 1, 2, 4 and 10-12, and further in view of Kondo et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0182427 A1. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 is herein amended for clarification.

Racich et al. in view of Nakane et al. does not disclose, teach, suggest or provide any reason for achieving a method for producing a polarizing film wherein the plurality of films are in a stacked arrangement without touching throughout the method for producing the polarizing film wherein the plurality of rolled raw films are in a stacked arrangement without touching throughout the method for producing the polarizing film, and wherein the films are simultaneously dipped into at least one type of processing liquid. Moreover, the deficiencies of Racich et al. in view of Nakane et al. are not overcome by the disclosure of Kondo et al.

Furthermore, the cited art fails to render obvious the presently claimed apparatus for producing a polarizing film.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is allowable and ask that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn. Applicants respectfully submit that this case is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully solicited.

If any points remain at issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the local exchange number listed below.

Application No.: 10/573,646
Art Unit: 2872

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.114
Attorney Docket No.: 062338

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

/BERNADETTE K. McGANN/

Bernadette K. McGann
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 65,127
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

BKM/bam